

## Message Text

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72

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

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P 182155Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7434

INFO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY

USINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 0661

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR PGOV ES HO XK

SUBJ: FONMIN'S VIEW OF JAPAPA CA PRESIDENTS MEETING

1. ON OCCASION OF VISIT TO 1975 AGRO-EXPO FAIR WITH FONMIN BORGONOVO ON FEBRUARY 14, I HAD OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS BRIEFLY HIS VIEWS OF WHAT HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED AT JALAPA MEETING, FROM WHICH HE HAD JUST RETURNED, VIS A VIS THE HONDURAS-EL SALVADOR DISPUTE.

2. BORGONOVO CHARACTERIZED THE DISCUSSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT AS ONES IN WHICH THE OTHER CA PRESIDENTS PUT CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE ON MOLINA AND LOPEZ TO BEGIN FORWARD MOTION TOWARDS SETTLEMENT. ONE SUGGESTION THAT OTHER PRESIDENTS URGED ON THEIR TWO COLLEAGUES WAS THAT HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR REESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AS FIRST STEP. BORGONOVO SAID THAT MOLINA AND LOPEZ AGREED TO MEET AGAIN WITHIN TEN DAYS TO SEE IF REESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WAS POSSIBLE, BUT THAT MOLINA WAS NOT DISPOSED TO EXERT UNDUE PRESSURE ON LOPEZ SINCE HE RECOGNIZES THAT THIS ISSUE IS A DELICATE ONE FOR THEO LATTER. COMMENT: REESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, AS FIRST STEP,HAS IN THE PAST BEEN SUPPORTED BY GOES BUT REJECTED BY GOH, WHICH UNTIL NOW HAS INSISTED ON ALL ISSUE BEING SOLVED

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IN ONE PACKAGE. END COMMENT.

3. WHEN I ASKED THE FONMIN ABOUT FUTURE STEPS TO RESOLVE THE OTHER BILATERAL ISSUES WITH HONDURAS BORGONOVO SAID HE STILL HOPED TO RESUME THE DIRECT BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS AT POINT WHERE THEY HAD BEEN INTERRUPTED BY RESIGNATION OF HONDURAN FONMIN BATRES LAST OCTOBER. BORGONOVO SAID THAT GOES DOES NOT WANT PRESS LOPEZ TOO FAR SINCE IT RECOGNIZES THAT LOPEZ' INTERNAL SUPPORT ON THIS ISSUE IS "UNCERTAIN".

4. I ASKED BORGONOVO IF HE FELT LOPEZ WOULD SOON APPOINT A SUCCESSOR TO BATRES TO GET THE NEGOTIATIONS UNDER WAY AGAIN. BORGONOVO SAID HE DID NOT KNOW. HE OPINED THAT SUCH AN APPOINTMENT WAS NOT NECESSARY, AND IN FACT IT MIGHT BE PREFERABLE IF THE TALKS RESUMED WITH ACTING FONMIN PINEDA SPEAKING FOR THE GOH. BORGONOVO SAID THAT PINEDA HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN, AND IN AGREEMENT WITH, THE PREVIOUS NEGOTIATIONS AND HE IMPLIED THAT BRINGING IN A NEW MAN COULD ONLY MEAN A DELAY WHILE THE NEWCOMER WAS BROUGHT UP TO DATE.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH BORGONOVO TOLD ME THAT SUCH DETAILS AS THE PROPOSED MOLINA-LOPEZ MEETING WITHIN TEN DAYS WAS "SECRET", THE WEEKEND PRESS CARRIED THAT STORY AND THE POSSIBILITY OF REESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS (PRESS COMMENT IN SEPTEL).

6. I BELIEVE THAT IF NORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS CAN BE REESTABLISHED IT WOULD BE A POSITIVE STEP TOWARDS AN EVENTUAL OVERALL SETTLEMENT. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE NEWS OUT OF THIS PRESIDENTS' MEETING, COMBINED WITH THOSE MEETINGS THAT PRECEDED IT AND WITH PROMISES OF MORE TO COME, AND THE RESULTANT SPECULATION ABOUT A POSSIBLE BREAK IN THE EL SALVADOR-HONDURAN IMPASSE, HAS CREATED AN ATMOSPHERE OF GOODWILL AND EXPECTATION WITHIN WHICH SUCH A FIRST STEP MAKES SENSE. I WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE AN APPRAISAL FROM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA OF REACTION AND POSSIBILITIES FROM THE GOH SIDE.

7. IN THE MEANTIME, I WILL DISCRETELY CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE THE PRESIDENT AND FONMIN TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FAVORABLE ATMOSPHERE CREATED BY THESE COS MEETINGS, SO THAT BOTH PARTIES CAN RESUME DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS AND MOVE TOWARDS NORMALIZATION.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, CHIEFS OF STATE MEETINGS, BOUNDARY CLAIMS  
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**Draft Date:** 18 FEB 1975  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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